

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for drying bulk material for use as fuel in a power station operating in connection with a pulp or paper production process and for cooling waste water of the pulp or paper production process, the method in a drying space comprising:
 - (a) conveying material to be dried ~~is conveyed~~ with at least one drying conveyor located in a [[the]] drying space
 - (b) feeding gas into the drying space,
 - (c) bringing waste water from the pulp or paper production process into heat exchange relationship with the gas to heat ~~heating~~ the gas while simultaneously cooling the waste water, and
 - (d) conducting the heated gas through the at least one drying conveyor conveying the material to be dried and thereafter discharging the gas that has passed through the at least one drying conveyor from the drying space; and
 - (e) conveying the dried material from the drying space to the power station and using the dried material as fuel for the power station, wherein step (e) includes heating the gas with waste water produced in a pulp or paper production process while simultaneously cooling the waste water.
2. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the drying conveyor comprises a chain conveyor which supports and carries along a wire mesh or screen fabric on which the material to be dried is conveyed, and wherein

step (d) includes conducting the heated gas through the wire mesh or screen fabric and through the material to be dried that is carried on the wire mesh or screen fabric.

3. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the gas to be heated is air.
4. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the temperature of the heated gas is 35–85 °C.
5. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gas is heated by hot waste water in a heat exchanger.
6. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gas is heated in a heat exchanger in the drying space.
7. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
a power station operating in connection with a pulp or paper production process;
and
a dryer for drying bulk material for use as fuel in the power station and for cooling
waste water of the pulp or paper production process, wherein the dryer
which comprises:
 - (i) a drying space,
 - (ii) at least one gas heating device,
 - (iii) at least one blower located outside the drying space arranged to blow gas into the drying space via said gas heating device for producing heated gas and/or to suck cooled gas out of the drying space, and
 - (iv) at least one drying conveyor located in the drying space, the at least one drying conveyor carrying a bed of material to be dried

through the drying space such that the heated gas is arranged to travel through the at least one conveyor and through the bed of material carried thereby, wherein

(v) the drying conveyor comprises a chain conveyor equipped with a drive apparatus and a wire mesh or screen fabric supported by and running on the chain conveyor such that the heated gas travels through the wire mesh or screen fabric, and wherein the apparatus further comprises,

waste water connectors for conducting waste water produced in [[a]] the pulp or paper production process into and out of the gas heating device, wherein the gas heating device is arranged to heat gas with the waste water while simultaneously cooling the waste water with the said gas, and dried material connectors for conducting the dried material from the drying space to the power plant for use as fuel in the power plant, wherein ~~the drying conveyor comprises a chain conveyor equipped with a drive apparatus and a wire mesh or screen fabric supported by and running on the chain conveyor such that the heated gas travels through the wire mesh or screen fabric.~~

8. (canceled)
9. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the wire mesh or screen fabric and the chain conveyor are substantially equal in width.
10. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the width of the wire mesh or screen fabric is 2–8 metres.
11. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 7, the chain conveyor has two chains and wire mesh or screen fabric support members between the two chains.

12. (canceled)
13. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the at least one gas heating device is arranged inside the drying space.
14. – 18. (canceled)
19. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 7, comprising a paper mill having a paper production process, wherein the waste water connectors are arranged to conduct waste water produced in the paper production process of the paper mill into and out of the at least one gas heating device.
20. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 7, comprising a pulp paper mill having a pulp production process, wherein the waste water connectors are arranged to conduct waste water produced in the pulp production process of the pulp mill into and out of the gas heating device.
21. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bulk material comprises bark, sawdust, pretreated sludge or mixtures thereof.
22. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the chain conveyor is operated at a speed of 0.02-0.1 metres per second.